

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1524
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UNCLAS RABAT 1902

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, MO GW
SUBJECT: FRG ECONOMICS MINISTER FRIEDRICHS VISITS MOROCCO:
COMMENTS ON FGR NUCLEAR ENERGY POLICY

1. DR. HANS FRIEDRICHS, FRG ECONOMICS MINISTER MADE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO RABAT APRIL 1 AND 2, ACCOMPANIED BY A SIZEABLE DELEGATION OF FRG ECONOMIC OFFICIALS, PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN, AND BANKERS. THE VISIT INCLUDED CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER OSMAN AND COMMERCE MINISTER GHISSASSI AS WELL AS CONSULTATIONS WITH THE MANAGERS OF KEY MOROCCAN PUBLIC, SEMIPUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISES.

2. IN ADDITION TO THE NORMAL EXPRESSIONS OF APPROVAL OF MUTUALLY PROFITABLE ECONOMIC RELATIONS, THE FACT THAT THE MOROCCO'S BILATERAL BALANCE OF PAYMENTS WITH THE FRG IS IN APPROXIMATE EQUILIBRIUM RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS. THE MOROCCANS UNDERLINED THEIR DESIRE FOR INCREASED GERMAN PRIVATE INVESTMENT WHICH FRIEDRICHS ALSO REPEATEDLY SUPPORTED IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS. A ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC AREAS OF COOPERATION WAS HELD BETWEEN PRIVATE GERMAN BUSINESS-
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MEN AND KEY MOROCCAN BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC OFFICIALS. ON THE TRADE SIDE, FRIEDRICHS NOTED THE FOLLOWING AREAS OF POTENTIAL GROWTH FOR MOROCCAN EXPORTS TO THE FRG: OUT OF SEASON VEGETABLES, HOUSE PLANTS, FLOWERS AND PROCESSED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

3. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE SEMI-OFFICIAL MOROCCAN PRESS PRIOR

TO THIS DEPARTURE FROM BONN, FRIEDRICHS GAVE THE FOLLOWING ANSWER TO A QUESTION ON THE GERMAN VIEW OF EXPANSION OF NUCLEAR POWER AND SALES OF NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS OVERSEAS: QUOTE WE CONSIDER THAT NUCLEAR ENERGY IS AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE SECURITY OF ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF ENERGY IN THE FUTURE. THIS GOES NOT ONLY FOR THE FRG BUT ALSO FOR OTHER COUNTRIES. CERTAINLY, THE SUPPLY AND DEMAND SITUATIONS ARE DIFFERENT. WE ARE NEVERTHELESS OF THE OPINION THAT THE PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AND I UNDERLINE - PEACEFUL - SHOULD NOT BE THE PRIVILEGE OF A FEW. ON THE CONTRARY, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS ARGUED IN FAVOR OF THE PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY ON A WORLD SCALE, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK, OF COURSE, OF AN EFFECTIVE POLICY OF NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR ARMS. BASED ON THIS, IT HAS ADOPTED A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE EXPORT OF NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS, PROVIDED THAT THEY ARE GUARANTEED AND THAT ALL NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS ARE TAKEN. IT IS EVIDENT THAT EACH PARTICULAR CASE SHOULD BE EXAMINED CAREFULLY. UNQUOTE.

4. FRIEDRICHS IS THE FIRST OF THREE FRG MINISTERIAL LEVEL VISITS PLANNED FOR MOROCCO THIS YEAR.

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